REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 4, 2004. Claims 1-11, 18, 19, 21, 22 and 42-47 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 8, 18, 19, 21, 22, 42 and 45 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-11, 18, 19, 21, 22 and 42-47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Kokai 9-282263 (Iijima et al.).

Independent Claim 1 is directed to an information processing apparatus that comprises communication control means for receiving a read command from an external device, the read command specifying a memory address where data to be read out are stored, and memory means for storing information about a device mountable on the information processing apparatus in a memory area, from which the external device can read out data by using the read command. Claim 1 also recites that the device mountable on the information processing apparatus includes an attachable part through which that device is attached to the information processing apparatus, and a function assist part for assisting a function of the information processing apparatus.

Iijima relates to a system which performs communications among two or more electronic devices connected by a communication control bus such as an IEEE-1394 serial bus. According to *Iijima*, in the system shown in Fig. 1, a Node ID is assigned to each device, as shown in Fig. 2. Then the personal computer issues an inquiry command (Fig. 3) to other devices to inquire as to their Node Unique ID (Fig. 4) and generates a correspondence table which describes the correspondence between the Node ID and the Node Unique ID for each of

the devices, as shown in Fig. 5. Then, the personal computer displays the configuration of the system as shown in Fig. 6 ([0017] - [0021]). The correspondence table contains information regarding model of the device, company of the device, and the like.

As noted, the apparatus of Claim 1, among other important features, reads out information about a mountable device by using the read command which specifies a memory address where data to be read out are stored. It will be appreciated that one benefit is that one is enabled to obtain information regarding a mountable device that is not at present mounted.

According to paragraph [0010] of *Iijima*, the personal computer makes an inquiry to each device seeking device information, by means of the inquiry command of the functional control protocol. According to paragraph [0014], the read-only storage means stores device model information. However, the inquiry command of the *Iijima* system does not specify a memory address. Also, even if *Iijima* is deemed to teach obtaining and displaying an identification of a device that has been connected to the personal computer, nothing has been found, or pointed out, in that document that would teach or suggest obtaining device information by use of a read command, as recited in Claim 1, that specifies a memory address, and or that would teach or suggest making an inquiry as to a mountable device that has been mounted or has not been mounted yet, as can be achieved using the apparatus of Claim 1. For at least those reasons, Claim 1 is believed to be clearly allowable over *Iijima*.

Independent Claims 8, 19, 21 and 22 all contain recitations similar to those of Claim 1 in respect of the arguments presented above, and those claims also are accordingly believed to be clearly allowable over *Iijima*.

Independent Claim 42 is directed to an information processing apparatus that comprises a memory, configured to store information about a device that is mountable on the information processing apparatus but is not mounted on said information processing apparatus, and a communication unit, configured to send the stored information to an external device..

Thus, among other important features recited in Claim 42 is communicating information about a device that is mountable on the apparatus but is not actually mounted. By virtue of that feature, the apparatus can inform a user of a mountable device that is not mounted.

Even if *Iijima* be deemed to teach obtaining an identification of a device that has been connected to the personal computer by inquiring of the connected device about its Node Unique ID, nothing has been found, or pointed out, in that document that would teach or suggest communicating information about a device that is mountable on the apparatus but is not actually mounted. Although the Node Unique ID includes information on device model, company, and the like, the Node Unique ID does not include information on a mountable device that is not currently mounted. For at least that reason, Claim 42 is also deemed to be clearly allowable over *Iijima.*

Independent Claim 45 recites similar characteristics to those discussed above with regard to Claim 42, and is also believed to be patentable for the same reasons.

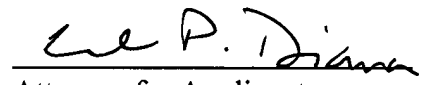
A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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